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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Thursday 29th April 2021
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Good news amid gloom:
No fresh taxes in MCC Budget

COVID-induced virtual budget for the first time in history

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (RKB&SSV)- Probably for the first time in the history of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), its Annual Budget was presented in the online format this morning. And the good news is that the powers that be in the Corporation have decided not to impose any new taxes on the people who are already reeling under COVID-19 impact. The second good news of sorts is that the MCC has presented a surplus budget of Rs. 6.13 crore.

The budget was presented by M.S. Shobha, Chairperson, MCC Standing Committee on Finance and Tax Appeals in the presence of Mayor Rukmini Madegowda, Deputy Mayor Anwar Baig and MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag. But interested citizens and media personnel could not witness the online presentation due to technical snag.

M.S. Shobha, Chairperson, MCC Standing Committee on Finance and Tax Appeals, presenting the Budget in city this morning as MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag, Mayor Rukmini Madegowda and Deputy Mayor Anwar Baig look on.

Earlier, the MCC had planned a physical presentation of budget with attendance in full and had issued circulars making a COVID negative test mandatory for all members and officials and even for the media persons who come to cover the event.

However, in a change of mind, the MCC decided to go for only online presentation where the Budget was to be live-streamed on the MCC's *YouTube* and *Facebook* live links.

While the Budget was successfully presented, many could not view it live due to technical glitches.

(See BUDGET on page 7)

Over 1.2 crore register as
vaccine drive opens for 18-plus

'CoWIN crashed', complain many; minor glitch in portal fixed

New Delhi, Apr. 29 (Agencies)- An enthusiastic response greeted the opening of online registrations for COVID-19 vaccination for those above 18 years last evening with the CoWin platform recording over 1.23 crore registrations. The vaccinations are set to begin on Saturday, May 1.

Of the online registrations, 90 percent users registered after 4 pm, when the portal began accepting 18-plus beneficiaries, a senior official said.

The exact numbers of new beneficiaries would be a dynamic figure, officials said. In the first three hours (4 pm - 7 pm), 383 million API hits, initially as high as 2.7 million hits per minute, were recorded. As many as 1.45 crore text messages were successfully sent.

Meanwhile, many complained that the CoWIN site was not working, though others successfully completed the process. Less than an hour after registrations opened at 4 pm, however, it was informed that a minor glitch in the portal had been fixed. The Centre had opened inoculation for everyone above the age of 18 from May 1 under a more "liberalised and accelerated Phase 3 strategy of COVID-19 vaccination."

Those looking to register for vaccination were to go to *https://www.cowin.gov.in/home* and click on the "register/sign-in" option.

However, this didn't work for many who got an error message saying: "CoWIN server is facing issues. Please try later."

However, Aarogya Setu, the Union Government's app for contact tracing and dissemination of medical advisories to contain spread of COVID-19, tweeted saying, "CoWIN Portal is working. There was a minor glitch at 4 pm that was fixed. 18 plus can register."

(See COWIN on page 7)

SAD DEMISE

Sri B. SADANANDA
D.O.B: 26.12.1947 D.O.D: 21.4.2021
Proprietor: B.S. Basavanna & Sons, Santhepet
Died of massive heart attack
We pray for the departed soul rest in peace
11th Day Ceremony on 1.5.2021 at our residence
F8, Shankar Mutt Road, 2nd Cross, Mysuru-570 004
Grieving: Family members, Ph: 9845129262

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Thursday 29th April 2021

Wins Retail Jeweller World 2021 - Middle East Award

John Paul Alukkas** (centre), **Managing Director, Joyalukkas-International Operations, receiving the Retail Jeweller World Middle East Award-2021 from Chirag Soni** (extreme left), **Managing Director, Solitaire Gemological Laboratory, in the presence of Dev Shetty, President & CEO of Fura Gems.

Mysuru, Apr. 29- Joyalukkas, one of the world's favourite jewellers, was recently awarded the coveted Retail Jeweller World 2021 - Middle East Award for their exquisite Ratna jewellery collection.

Announcing this, John Paul Alukkas, Managing Director of Joyalukkas Jewellery - International Operations, said that this is yet another honour for the collection that is a celebration of beauty and culture.

"Our exclusive Ratna collection provides a distinct experience that is the true magic of an ever-glowing handcrafted set with exquisite coloured precious stones. Ratna is a fine piece of art that is a mixture of some meticulous stones, unbelievable designs and elegant looking execution. Every piece and aspect of the jewellery is crafted with excellent perfection that make it a much sought our range for customers," he pointed out after receiving the award.

The Joyalukkas Ratna collection has been famous since time immemorial. It added more charm and elegance and overall gave off a very dignified look.

The Joyalukkas Ratna collection for women is designed with a lot of accuracy, moderation and intricate work. The stones are hand-picked and placed onto the jewellery.

The Ratna collection comes with topnotch quality and uses only certified precious stones, each of which is placed carefully and elegantly on the perfect set and hence are known as timeless beauties. These eloquent collections are suitable for any ethnic wear to make a bold and big statement.

"The Ratna collection is one among our wide range of collections. Our collections include Apurva, Veda, Zenina, Pride and Eleganza. They showcase the range of our international designs that cater to a wider spectrum of customer choices and preferences each designed to meet the diverse tastes as well as needs of our customers," added John Paul Alukkas.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Will the much-discussed EVMs be placed in museums in the near future? Is the electoral infrastructure of the country going to be digitised further, with the possibility of remote voting coming around the corner? In fact, the Election Commission of India is doing a blockchain project with IIT-Madras and some eminent scientists. "We are very hopeful that by the 2024 Lok Sabha elections you will see a lot of fundamental differences in the way we are working, including this (e-voting)," the former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said recently.

Blockchain has the potential to bring transparency in voting while maintaining security and anonymity. Also, results can be gathered and processed quickly and straight after the voting is finished. The common electorate, however, might struggle to understand such a technology. In reality, common people rely much on the institutions and also on their political leaders. We know that the EVM debate got momentum repeatedly in the country. How easy will it be to bring the major political parties into confidence to avoid any possible distrust before rolling in blockchain-based technology in voting?

— Atanu Biswas in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

World's only see-through Sky Pool

London: Created 35 meters above the ground, between two new residential buildings in London's Nine Elms business district, the highly-anticipated Sky Pool makes you feel like you're swimming through the sky.

Measuring 25 meters in length, the transparent outdoor pool was designed by HAL Architects. It is made out of acrylic and can hold up to 1,48,000 gallons of water. The impressive sky pool is the centerpiece of Embassy Gardens, a new 2,000-home development in the Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station regeneration zone. When it opens, next month, Sky Pool will become the most exclusive place to take a dip in all of Britain.

Sky Pool will not only be offering swimmers breathtaking views of the House of Parliament, the London Eye and London's city skyline, but also the thrilling experience of floating in the air, tens of meters above ground, with nothing but a transparent layer of acrylic separating them from the chasm below.

Man names his son after his workplace

Jakarta: An Indonesian man loved his workplace so much that he has named his son after it. His son's name is Statistical Information Communication Office... Even before he got married, Samet Wahyudi knew that if he ever had a son, he wanted to name him after the department he is working. Their first child was a girl, so he agreed on a more conventional name for her, but when his wife, Linda, gave birth to their second child, a boy, in December last year, he knew exactly what his name would be – Statistical Information Communication Office.

Samet said that he has been working at the Statistical Information Communication Office which has become like a second home for him, so he wanted it connected to his son somehow.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Test tube baby or IVF is the only solution available for all infertility problems.

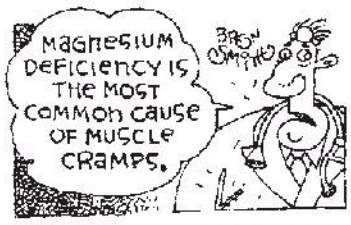
IVF is only one of the options available from a basket of options. **1)** Lifestyle modifications **2)** Follicular tracking and timing with ovulation **3)** Follicular tracking and intrauterine insemination (IUI) And lastlyInvitrofertilisation (IVF)- however IVF is the most effective.

***Dr. Nivedita Shetty** - Chief of Reproductive Medicine & IVF*

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



A meta-analysis of studies revealed that daily doses of magnesium reduced the risk of stroke, heart failure, Type-II diabetes and all-cause mortality. The recommended daily dosage of magnesium is 400 MG daily for men, 300 MG for women.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	APR.27	APR.28
Day's Positive Cases	2,042	1,759
Total Positive Cases	70,297	72,056
Day's Discharges	679	882
Total Discharges	61,880	62,762
Day's Deaths	9	11
Total Deaths	1,169	1,180
Total Active Cases	7,248	8,114

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Garment industries can function with 50 percent staff

Mysuru, Apr.29 (PM&DM)- In some relief to the garment sector, the State Government on Wednesday relaxed the COVID Curfew restrictions for garment industries by allowing them to function with 50 percent staff.

The Government, while issuing COVID-19 Curfew guidelines on Monday last, had barred functioning of garment industries fearing spread of the deadly pandemic.

But in a revision of curfew restrictions, the Government yesterday allowed functioning of garment units with 50 percent capacity and with all COVID precautionary and safety measures in place.

The garment workers are allowed to travel to their workplace by carrying the Identity card issued by their employers and following COVID appropriate behaviour.

REALLY...?

- ***The modern violin has been around for roughly 500 years. It was said to have been designed in the 1500s by Andrea Amati.***
- ***Playing the violin burns approximately 170 calories per hour. Forget about your workout and start practicing harder!***
- ***Violins are typically comprised of spruce or maple wood.***
- ***Violins are very complex. Over 70 different pieces of wood are put together to form the modern violin.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

New teacher joins the School...

Teacher: *Students, tell your names and hobbies.*

1st boy : *My name is Arun. My hobby is watching moon.* ***2nd boy:*** *My name is Arjun and my hobby is watching moon.* ***3rd boy:*** *My name is Vikas and hobby is watching moon.*

Teacher: *Wow, good everyone's hobbies are same...* ***Ok, now girls turn... 1st girl:*** *Hello mam, my name is Moon.*

Teacher shocked, Boys rocked !!

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.06
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.41
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.17
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.84

VOICE OF THE READER

Property tax on open land

Sir,

In this season of property tax collection in our city, 'Property Tax on Open Land' has become the novel element. Suppose some land around a house is left open, most probably it would be used for gardening, growing vegetables, raising trees by the dwellers.

All such activities provide considerable volume of oxygen into the atmosphere (nature). Such open spaces are essential for the well-being of the environment.

The recent step of "taxing" such land by the local authority is unwise. In fact, such greening activity by city dwellers must be encouraged and really deserve some incentives too.

Also, those dwellers who have setup terrace or roof-top gardening must be provided with some rebate in the taxes. It is hoped that MCC understands this and does the right thing.

—D.V. Mohanprakash

Mysuru
26.4.2021

Extend date for submission of Forms to Banks by seniors

Sir,

Senior citizens aged sixty years or more are required to submit Form No.15G/ Form No.15H to the Banks to claim certain receipts without deduction of tax at source (TDS). In view of the present COVID-19 situation, such senior citizens are not able to visit the Banks and submit the required form before 30.4.2021. It is, therefore, requested that the authorities either extend the date of submission of the form to June 30 or validate the form submitted last year till 31.3.2022.

— H. Seetharamaiah

Vidyaranyapuram
25.4.2021

Webinar on "Art and Science of Engineering Product Designs" held

Mysuru, Apr. 29- The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women, Mysuru, had organised a Webinar on "Art and Science of Engineering Product Designs" on Apr. 24.

Anantha Bhat, Founder and Managing Director, Chowki Services Private Limited, Bengaluru, who was the Resource Person, spoke about Learning through Read, Re read, Re format, re connect and Re tell. He stressed on the importance of Soft skills such as communication and time management as part of technical education which GSSSIETW has been inculcating among the students.

He instructed students to know the field in which they are good and work on enhancing their knowledge in the field of their interest to excel in life. He said that engineering design is an art and everyone can design in different way to get the best design for the problem to be solved.

Dr. M. Shivakumar, Principal, GSSSIETW, gave an overview of the focus towards engineering design for meeting today's world technology requirements.

Vanaja B. Pandit, Hon. Secretary, GSSS, presided. Dr. J. Jayanth, Associate Professor, Department of ECE, introduced the Resource Person. Dr. P. Raviraj, Professor, Department of CSE, welcomed. Dr. K.S. Gururaj, Professor, Department of CSE, proposed a vote of thanks.

Data-driven system takes care of COVID-infected Policemen

SP C.B. Ryshyanth initiates mechanism wherein health of every cop and family is daily monitored real time

Raghu monitoring the records at COVID Monitoring Cell. Picture right shows Srinivas speaking to a team of doctors at a Hospital in city.

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (Akshay & BCT)- Among all the COVID-19 warriors, the most visible, yet most under-appreciated, are the humble Policemen. The resources available with the Police are minuscule. Despite this major handicap and a risk to life, Policemen have risen to the challenge.

Ryshyanth

It is Policemen on the ground whose untiring efforts are helping to contain COVID virus. They are also the first to come in direct contact with the infected. Apart from being actively mobilising to control COVID outbreak, a unique data-driven initiative is silently functioning in Mysuru where the health and requirements of each COVID-infected Policeman and his family is monitored and micro-managed every day.

There are over 27 Policemen who have been hit by the virus so far and some of their family members too have been infected. Separate teams have been formed by **Mysuru Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth** and coordinators have been appointed to monitor their health.

The entire team reports to **Additional SP R. Shivakumar** and officers on the top have real-time visibility into the health condition of the patients, oxygen requirement, isolation at home or hospital, details of vaccination taken, etc. The system has been devised to prevent the death of men and women in the line of duty and also to provide them the best treatment that is available in Mysuru. Since last year, seven Policemen have lost their lives to the virus.

Dedicated team

As soon as any Policeman contracts the virus, information is first passed to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Health Officer and the District Police Coordination Team and the COVID Monitoring Cell is kept in the loop. Information is passed to Additional SP Shivakumar who in turn informs District Armed Reserve (DAR) Dy.SP Satish who will coordinate with the in-charge officers.

Three officers — Srinivas, C.N. Pradeep Kumar and M.K. Sunil — have been appointed as in-charge of the Coordination Team. They will be in touch with team members **M.G. Raghu, B. Mahesh, A.J. Sunil, Harshavardhan and Raju** who manage the infected personnel who are recuperating at various hospitals in city including Apollo BGS Hospital, Shanthaveri Gopalagowda Hospital, ClearMedi Radiant Hospital, District Hospital (COVID Hospital), Kamakshi Hospital and JSS Hospital.

If the infected Policemen or their family members are not hospitalised and if they are in home isolation too their health is regularly monitored and exclusive teams have been formed to call them and enquire about their health. All the details are informed to the Additional SP by the coordinators. **The team functions 24x7 from the SP Office and Geetha from the Wireless Department assists the team.**

Reporting mechanism

The reporting mechanism has dedicated data to be filled in like name and designation of the infected Policemen, name of the Police Station, date of testing positive, address, home isolation or hospitalisation, name of the family member testing positive, date of sample collected, any other health issues (co-morbidities), vaccination taken — first or second dose — food quality hygiene issues, treatment issues, ration requirement and any other specific issues that needs to be addressed. In case the patient has health problems, the daily progress is monitored and health condition is recorded and reported too.

Micro-management

Not only this. Circulars in e-mail and wireless formats have been issued to all Police Stations in Mysuru (District limits) asking the in-charge officers to take precautions and report — to enable micro-management) if any staff contracts the disease.

Constables, Head Constables or officers who have any COVID symptoms have to be sent for RT-PCR tests before granting them leaves. In case if anyone tests positive, the Station in-charge can inform the District Police Coordination Team who will make arrangements with Highway Patrol Team for the infected to be shifted to the Hospital. They can also directly contact Additional SP Shivakumar if they need any help.

Policemen can contact Geetha on Mob: 94808-00936 or Dy.SP Satish on Mob: 94808-05006. The Control Room can be contacted on Ph: 0821-2418612.

NEWS BRIEFS

COVID Duty: Volunteers invited

As the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has gripped Mysuru City, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) is recruiting volunteers to help and support frontline workers. Interested volunteers (medical and non-medical) can register their names by calling the following numbers: Ph: 0821-2418800, 2418186, 2418811 and 2440890 or WhatsApp: 94498-41195 or 94498-41196.

Calling Law Graduates

The Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department has invited applications from Law Graduates belonging to ST community to provide Judicial Administration training for the year 2021-22. Interested candidates can obtain the applications from the Officer of Integrated Tribal Development Programme and submit the application online on website www.tw.kar.nic.in before June 30. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2427140 or 0821-2411113.

Horticulture Helpline

The Horticulture Department of Zilla Panchayat, Mysuru, has set up a Helpline Number - 0821-2420066 to provide information related to horticulture produces. The Helpline is functional between 9 am and 6 pm till May 11. People can air their grievances related to horticultural produce and get info on the market, according to a press release from the Deputy Director, Zilla Panchayat Horticulture Department.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Yesterday	:	93.65 feet
Inflow	:	344 cusecs
Outflow	:	421 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2260.22 feet
Inflow	:	180 cusecs
Outflow	:	775 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,819.53 feet
Inflow	:	150 cusecs
Outflow	:	100 cusecs

Man kills mother, wife, 2 children at Saragur

Manikantaswamy

Kempajamma

Ganga

Samrat

Rohit

Saragur, Apr. 29 (Saragur Nagesh, Srinidhi & KS)- A 32-year-old specially abled man has gone absconding after allegedly killing his mother, nine-month-old pregnant wife and two children. The shocking incident took place at Chamegowdanahundi village, about 8 kms from Saragur, which came to light today morning.

While a few villagers alleged that it was a pre-planned murder, others said that the man had killed his family members in a drunken stupor and escaped in his vehicle.

While the accused has been identified as 32-year-old Manikantaswamy, a tailor by profession, the deceased are Kempajamma (62), mother of Manikantaswamy, his wife Ganga (28) and children Samrat (3) and Rohit (1).

The murders came to light when Manikantaswamy's sister came to the house at about 7 am today to take Ganga to the hospital for a check up as she (Ganga) was nine months pregnant.

Some villagers suspected that Manikantaswamy, after rendering his family members unconscious by mixing chemicals in their food and killed them by hitting them with his metal crutches, before fleeing from the spot on his vehicle. A few alleged that Manikantaswamy was a drunkard, who used to consume liquor daily and fight with his family besides suspecting that he (Manikantaswamy) may have killed his family members in a drunken stupor. But the exact reason behind the murders would be known only after a thorough Police investigation.

Meanwhile, Saragur Sub-Inspector Divya suspected that the murders may have taken last night. Forensic experts, dog squad and fingerprint experts have been pressed into service.

Top Police officers including IGP (Southern Range) Pravin Madhukar Pawar, Additional SP Shivakumar, Dy.SP Raviprasad, Circle Inspector Anand, District Officials, Tahsildar and others were present at the spot. Saragur Police, who have registered a case, have launched a hunt to nab Manikantaswamy.

MUDA reclaims encroached lands worth Rs.10 crore

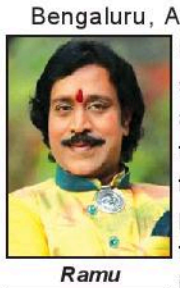
Mysuru, Apr. 29 (DM)- Resuming the operation for clearance of its encroached lands, the MUDA recently reclaimed encroached lands totally worth Rs. 10 crore.

MUDA, which had acquired 8.27 acres of land in Survey No. 275 of Hanchya village, had reserved it for a drinking water project. But about one and half acre area of this land was encroached upon, following which MUDA cleared the encroachments and reclaimed the land, which is valued at over Rs. 6 crore.

Similarly, MUDA reclaimed 2 acres of encroached land in Survey No. 28 of Lalithadripura village, after clearing the sheds built illegally on the said land upon encroachment. The value of this reclaimed land is about Rs. 4 crore.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of MUDA SE Shankar, EE Satish and other staff, according to a press release from MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh.

Puttanna Kanagal's son Ramu passes away


Ramu

Bengaluru, Apr. 29 - Ramu Kanagal (53), son of legendary Kannada filmmaker Puttanna Kanagal, passed away following brief illness at a hospital here on Wednesday.

Ramu, whose condition had deteriorated in the last five days, was admitted at the Victoria Hospital and at the time of his admission, the virus had infected the lungs severely and he passed away around 5.30 am.

Ramu, a dancer, was the founder of Kanagal Nrithyalaya in Bengaluru.

He had nurtured many dance and theatre talents.

Obituary

S. N.Satyabhama

Mysuru, Apr. 29- S. N.Satyabhama (85), passed away at her residence in V.V. Mohalla this morning. She leaves behind her husband Narain Rao Sarvode, two sons, one daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam, according to family sources.

Chikkasiddaiah

Chikkasiddaiah (68), a retired MUDA employee and a resident of Alanahalli, passed away this morning at his residence.

He leaves behind his wife Mahadevamma, son Raju, two brothers and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Alanahalli Burial Grounds today, according to family sources.

N. Krishnamurthy

N. Krishnamurthy (66), retired Executive Engineer and a resident of Sharada Devi Nagar, passed away yesterday night in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held today, according to sources.

Pailwan Jawa Ramanna

Pailwan Jawa Ramanna (75), a resident of Kumbarageri, passed away on Monday in city. He served as the Vice-President of Kumbara Sangha and was a guide to budding wrestlers.

He leaves behind two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage, according to family sources.

Guddappa Ravikumar

Guddappa Ravikumar (48), a resident of Kurubarahalli, passed away following a heart attack at a private hospital in city. He was the priest of Sri Bannimahakaleshwari Temple, near CITB Choultry at Siddarthanagar.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage, according to family sources.

Transfer 11,722 hectares land to Forest Department: HC tells Govt.

Land must be handed over to re-compensate forest land utilised for Harangi Dam in Kodagu

Bengaluru, Apr. 29 (BCT)- The High Court (HC) of Karnataka has directed the State Government to transfer the entries in respect of 11,722.29 hectares of lands identified under C and D categories in Kodagu district to the Forest Department as was decided four decades ago to compensate forest area utilised for Harangi Dam project.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice J.M. Khazi passed the order on Apr. 6 and directed the State to transfer the land to the Forest Department within one month.

The Court passed the order while allowing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition filed by K.A. Ravi Chengappa, President of Cauvery Sene, Madikeri, and C.C. Devaiah of Virajpet. The petition was filed as the Revenue Department had distributed huge tracts of land that actually belonged to the Forest Department to the landless.

They had contended that Harangi Dam was built during 1970s near Hudgur village in Somwarpet taluk and the Government had on May 12, 1972 ordered release of 900 acres of land from Yadavanadu forest area and 3,000 acres from the Atturu forest area to rehabilitate the persons who had lost their lands on account of the Dam project.

The petitioners had brought to the Court's notice that the Government in 1972 and 1994 had directed that 18,000 acres of land from the Revenue Department should be handed over to the Forest Department to re-compensate the forest land utilised for the Dam.

Ravi and Devaiah told the Court that though orders were passed in 1972 (Government Order No. AFD 71FGL 72 dated 12.05.1972) and 1994 (No. RD 106 LGP 88, dated 20.07.1994) for transferring 11,722.29 hectares of land to the Forest Department, the Revenue authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner of Kodagu, had not transferred the records of these lands in favour of the Forest Department till date, even after several decades.

The petitioners said that in official records the said extent of lands continues to be shown under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department and not in the name of the Forest Department as the land has not been transferred despite many communications from the Forest Department.

Appearing for the State, Additional Government Advocate told the Court that only formal handing over of lands to Forest Department was not done and the advocate clarified that the Forest Department is at liberty to take charge of the 11,722.29 hectares of lands and the Court can issue such a direction.

Citing a Supreme Court judgement — N. Godavarman Thirupulkpad case on protection of environment and forest lands — the Court ordered that the State Government must transfer the land to Forest Department as the 11,722.29 hectares were meant to re-compensate the forest area used for the Harangi Dam project.

ZAK appeals Govt. for funds to maintain Zoos

Due to COVID Curfew, the busy Mysuru Zoo Road wore a deserted look yesterday. Picture right shows ZAK Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy during a webinar session yesterday.

Mysuru, Apr.29 (MTY&DM)- With Zoos across the State losing revenue due to closure on account of COVID Curfew, the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), which runs nine Zoos in the State, including Mysuru Zoo and Bannerghatta Biological Park at Bengaluru, has appealed the Government to grant funds for maintenance of Zoos.

In the wake of COVID Curfew, ZAK Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy held a webinar on issues concerning Zoos during COVID-19 crisis, at Mysuru Zoo auditorium here on Wednesday, during which it was decided to appeal the Government for releasing Rs.17 crore for the maintenance of Zoos.

Addressing the webinar meeting, ZAK Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi said that the revenues of all Zoos have dropped to new lows due to COVID crisis, which has been haunting the globe.

Pointing out that Zoos in Karnataka earned a cumulative revenue of Rs.66.58 crore in 2019-20, he said that following the outbreak of the deadly pandemic last year, the revenues came down sharply to Rs. 24.26 crore in 2020-21.

Noting that the 2021-22 ZAK budget forecast has predicted an expenditure of Rs.93.33 crore for the maintenance of all the nine Zoos, Ravi said that the ZAK is expected to earn a revenue of Rs.32.54 crore, which means that there will be a shortfall of Rs.60.79 crore.

Mysuru Zoo Executive Director Ajith M. Kulkarni explained about the measures taken in Mysuru Zoo for animal care and ongoing developmental activities.

ZAK Chairman Mahadevaswamy, who presided over the webinar session, said that the Zoos are facing an unprecedented crisis due to COVID-19 havoc. Pointing out that Zoos are staring at a huge revenue shortfall due to drop in visitors and COVID Curfew driven closure, he said that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will be appealed to grant Rs.17 crore for animal care and salary of employees for the current year.

Maintaining that the Government had recently released Rs.8 crore for management of Zoos, Mahadevaswamy expressed the hope that the Government will sanction more money for development of Zoos.

Asserting that the CM was committed to animal welfare and payment of salaries to employees, he said that plans are afoot to encourage NRIs, donors and members of the public for Zoo animal adoption.

He further said that he will make a personal appeal to the citizens of Mysuru for contributing their mite for Zoo.

ZAK Member Gokul Govardhan and officials from all Zoos of the State took part in this virtual webinar session.

Fourth COVID Hospital to open on KRS Road next week

District Minister, State BJP Vice-President and MP inspect Princess Krishnajammanni Super Speciality Hospital

89 oxygenated beds readied at new 220-bed Hospital

Mysuru, Apr.29 (RK&DM)- With the district witnessing a spike in the second wave of COVID-19 contagion, Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar and State BJP Vice-President B.Y. Vijayendra, who is the son of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, visited the yet to be commissioned Princess Krishnajammanni Super Speciality Hospital building in PKTB Sanatorium premises on KRS road in the city this morning, where 89 oxygenated beds are getting readied for treatment of COVID-patients.

During the inspection, the Hospital authorities told Somashekar and Vijayendra that the District Administration and the Health authorities have converted this 220-bed Hospital to a COVID Hospital with 89 oxygenated beds to treat patients, who need oxygen support

Pointing out that at present oxygen will be supplied from the nearby Trauma Care Centre, the officials said that a major oxygen plant will be set up in the Hospital shortly which will cater to the needs of Super Speciality Hospital and PKTB Hospital besides augmenting the existing oxygen facility at Trauma Care Centre.

The Super Speciality Hospital will be the fourth one on KRS Road to treat COVID patients, with the District Hospital, Trauma Care Centre and ESI Hospital, being the three others.

Speaking to press persons after the inspection, Vijayendra said that the oxygenated beds in the Super Speciality Hospital will be ready in a week.

Maintaining that the Government is doing everything possible to stem the spread of the deadly pandemic, he said that he, along with District Minister Somashekar held a meeting earlier today with Private Hospital Managements as there were bed lending issues. Vijayendra said that the Private Hospitals have been appealed to part with a good number of beds.

Asserting that the Government is fully equipped and geared up to tackle the COVID crisis on a war-footing, he said that the Chief Minister's Home Office 'Krishna' at Bengaluru has turned out into a State-level COVID War Room.

Seeking the Co-operation of everyone in this hour of crisis, Vijayendra said that it is not the right time to reply to the charges of Opposition leaders when the State is battling the unprecedented crisis.

Stating that he will reply to all the charges levelled against him, the Government and the Chief Minister at an appropriate time, he said that his immediate priority is to tackle the deadly pandemic, which is playing havoc with the lives of people.

District Minister Somashekar said that he has held Corona-related meetings covering all 11 Assembly segments of the district.

Replying to K.R. Nagar JD(S) MLA S.R. Mahesh's statement questioning whether the District Minister was alive, Somashekar said that it is the people of the district who will tell whether he was alive or not.

Asserting that he held meeting on COVID issues with all MLAs of the district, he said that S.R. Mahesh was the lone MLA from the district who did not attend the meeting.

Contending that he was working day and night for ensuring the health and safety of people of the district, he said that the people are witness to all this and he does not need the MLA's certificate.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, MLA L. Nagendra, former Mayor Sandesh Swamy, PKTB Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. H.M. Virupaksha, faculty Dr. Jayashekar, K.R. Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Rajesh, who is also COVID Nodal Officer and other officials were present.

Somashekar, who has been camping in the city for the past couple of days, is on a Hospital inspection spree, visiting many major hospitals, including JSS Hospital, Beedi Workers Hospital in Azeez Sait Nagar, which has been converted into a COVID Hospital, Seth Mohandas Tulasidas Hospital on JLB road and the new Super Speciality Hospital.

Meanwhile, it is important to note here that the District Hospital, Jayadeva Hospital, Government Ayurveda Hi-Tech Panchakarma Hospital and Trauma Care Centre, all located on KRS road, was constructed during the previous Congress Government headed by Siddharamaiah, when Vasu was the Chamaraja MLA. The construction of these hospitals has come to the aid of the District Administration as these Hospitals have largely helped in easing the pressure on demands for COVID beds, ICUs and oxygenated beds.

Interestingly, the stretch of KRS road from Akashavani Circle to Royal Inn Junction has turned out into a major Hospital Hub of the State, with as many as nine major Government Hospitals — Railway Hospital, ESI Hospital, PKTB Sanatorium, Jayadeva Hospital, Princess Krishnajammanni Super Speciality Hospital, Trauma Care Centre, Government Ayurveda Hi-Tech Panchakarma Hospital, Epidemic Diseases (ED) Hospital and District Hospital — located on this stretch.

COVID-19 vaccination drive under progress at Government Ayurveda Hi-Tech Panchakarma Hospital on KRS Road, Brindavan Extension in city, this morning. Picture right shows beneficiaries waiting to get their jab.

KSOU distributes 2,000 masks to vegetable vendors on M.G. Road

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (RK&KS)- About 50 staff members of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vidyashankar, distributed masks and sanitisers besides creating awareness on COVID-19 to vegetable and fruit vendors and also to the general public at the vegetable and fruit market on M.G. Road here this morning.

A few days ago, Governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala, during a video conference, had asked VC Prof. Vidyashankar to extend help in the fight against COVID-19, to which, the VC had replied that the KSOU had given its entire building for the establishment of COVID Care Centre besides telling the Governor that KSOU would create awareness among the public and distribute masks and sanitisers to them.

This morning, the KSOU staff, who visited the vendors on M.G. Road, distributed 2,000 face masks and sanitisers to 1,000 vendors and members of the public, besides urging them to follow COVID preventive steps such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and washing hands with soap frequently among others.

The VC was accompanied by Registrars Khadar Pasha and Mahadevan, VC's Personal Secretary Devaraj, Deans Ashok, Kamble, Shyam, Shikha, Niranjan Kumar and others.

No fresh taxes in MCC Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Though the presentation was halted for five minutes as Shobha began her presentation to enable the technical team to set right the glitches, it was not repaired and the live presentation was viewed by Corporators and interested public outside with interruptions, buffering, unclear audio and such complaints.

No new taxes

Not imposing any fresh tax on Mysureans, the MCC is expecting revenue receipts of Rs. 987.68 crore and payment of Rs. 981.55 crore for the next fiscal year. It is expecting Rs.188 crore from Property Tax and Khatha Transfer in 2021-22. In previous year (2020-21), under this head, the MCC had set a target of Rs. 157.70 crore whereas the collection stood at Rs.132.16 crore due to Corona pandemic.

Under water tax and UGD head, the MCC is anticipating revenue of Rs.65 crore this financial year. The Corporation had collected Rs. 54.12 crore as against the target of Rs. 78 crore during 2020-21.

Similarly, the MCC is expecting Rs.9 crore from trade licence, Rs. 4.25 crore from rental of MCC properties, Rs. 70.27 crore from the State and Central Government funds and 15th Finance Commission grants.

In the previous financial year, the Corporation had expected Rs. 69.39 crore and received Rs. 52.04 crore till March, 31, 2021.

The development funds from Local MLAs and MP is expected to be around Rs. 2.5 crore. Under the Chief Minister's Nagarotthana Project, the MCC was promised special grants of Rs. 100 crore of which Rs. 30 crore was pending. Another Rs. 6.65 crore is expected from the sanctioning of plans and other services.

Plan proposals during 2021-22

The MCC has plans to set up cash deposit kiosks in safe areas at all its 9 Zonal offices and the main building for the convenience of citizens to pay taxes any time. Presently, people can make online payment too. The cash deposit kiosks will be set up with the co-operation of banks. It will be established at secured spots.

Diesel from plastic waste

The MCC is also embarking on an ambitious plan of producing diesel from plastic waste collected. These units will come in all zones. The diesel produced will be used for MCC vehicles to cut fuel bills. Rs. 50 lakh has been earmarked for this project.

OTHER FUND ALLOCATION

• Rs. 6 crore earmarked for pre-cast manhole cover as the existing brick based cover does not last for long.

• Rs. 1 crore for development of Vijayanagar Railway Extension grounds

• Underpass Jaganmohan Palace to decongest the space and Rs. 2 crore earmarked for this work

• Beautification of important circles like St. Antony Church, Lorry Terminal, Ballal, Hebbal, Basavanagudi, K.G. Koppal, Nijalingappa Circle and Maruti Temple, along with Nanjumalige, Sharadadevinagar and Al Badar Circle, for which Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked.

• Rs. 1.50 crore for restoration of Dodda Gadiyara Circle (Silver Jubilee Clock Tower)

• Year-long illumination of the MCC main building as part of centenary celebrations

• Rs. 3 crore earmarked to open a unit to manufacture materials required for pothole filling

• Rs. 14 crore reserved for improvement of parks

• MCC to use battery-operated vehicles instead of fossil fuel-based vehicles

• Rs.25 lakh earmarked for COVID treatment of journalists

• Setting up of mobile water testing units

• Use of recycled water to water plants in public parks

• Rs. 10 crore to buy machinery and other equipment for Solid Waste Management plants in Vidyaranyapuram, Kesare and Rayanakere, set up under Sustainable Cities Integrated Project

• Follow bio-mining method and clearing of 3 lakh tonnes of garbage dumped on 15-acre land in Vidyaranyapuram. This will be done to prevent odour from this plant in surrounding areas. The total cost of bio-mining is Rs. 14.38 crore.

VACCINATION REGISTRATION ON COWIN PORTAL

- The first step would be visiting the CoWIN portal and clicking on the "Register/Sign In Yourself" tab to register for the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Enter your mobile number and click on "GET OTP (one-time password)". You can also sign in via Aarogya Setu app or the UMANG app.
- Once you receive it, enter the OTP and click on the verify button.
- After verification, the "Registration for Vaccination" page will open.
- Enter your personal details — Photo ID proof, Photo ID Number, Name, Gender, Year of Birth — all mandatory. Now register yourself. Documents for photo ID that you can use:
  - **a. Aadhaar card**
  - **b. Driving Licence**
  - **c. PAN card**
  - **d. Passport**
  - **e. Pension Passbook**
  - **f. NPR Smart Card**
  - **g. Voter ID Card (EPIC)**
- Once registered, you will be shown the "Account Details" page, where you can schedule your appointment.

ON AAROGYA SETU APP

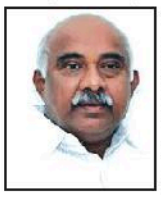
- Install the Aarogya Setu app.
- Register yourself on Aarogya Setu app using your mobile number. An OTP will be sent to your mobile numbers.
- Click on the "Vaccination" tab.
- Now, register for vaccination by filling up the required details.

You can also register yourself for the vaccination on UMANG App.

ON UMANG APP

- Install UMANG app. Register by entering your mobile number. An OTP will be sent to your mobile number. Fill it in the given space and click on "Register".
- Now that you have logged in, click on "register now" for vaccinations. It's coloured in red.
- Now click on "register or login for vaccination".
- Enter your mobile number, an OTP will be sent to your mobile number. Enter it and "verify".
- Enter your details and "submit". Then schedule your appointment for your vaccination.

MLC lashes out at Govt. for sale of Ballari land to Steel Co.



Mysuru, Apr.29 (PM&DM) - Hitting out against his own party Government in the State for agreeing to sell over 3,600 acres of land to Jindal Steel Works (JSW) at Ballari, **senior BJP MLC A.H. Vishwanath** has urged the Government to reconsider its decision.

Addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan here this morning, Vishwanath wondered why the B.S.Yediyurappa Government is rushing to sell 3,667 acres land to JSW when the BJP as the Opposition party in 2019, had severely opposed the then JD(S)-Congress Government's decision to sell the same land to JSW on a lease-cum-sale agreement.

Maintaining that JSW had pending dues running to hundreds of crores of rupees to State-run Mysore Minerals Limited (MML), Vishwanath said that the current Government should not forget that the BJP had opposed tooth and nail on the sale of land to JSW when it was in the opposition two years ago.

Questioning the Government's pricing of Rs.1.22 -1.50 lakh per acre, he said that the Government has stuck to decades old price, which is not correct. Wondering why the Ministers in the Yediyurappa cabinet, especially Anand Singh who is from Ballari, were silent on the issue, the MLC urged all the Ministers to raise the issue in the next cabinet meeting and press the Government not to go ahead the deal, which is detrimental to the interests of the State.

Replying to a question on whether there was any kickback in the deal, Vishwanath indirectly said that there may be one. Asserting that he would raise his voice whenever the interests of the State was in stake, Vishwanath reiterated that the Government should reconsider its decision. He also said that he would to the PM on the issue.

MYSORE TRAIN TIMINGS

FROM MYSURU RAILWAY STATION TOWARDS KSR BENGALURU

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Mysuru Departure	Bengaluru Arrival	Days of Service	
06237	Mysuru	Sainagar Shirdi	05.30	08.00	Monday	Fully reserved
06518	Mangaluru	KSR Bengaluru	05.50	08.40	Fri, Sun & Tue	Fully reserved
07326	Mysuru	Belagavi	05.50	08.40	Daily	Unreserved
06558	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	06.10	09.15	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06504	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	06.45	09.35	Daily	Fully reserved
06229	Mysuru	Varanasi	07.20	09.55	Tue & Thu	Fully reserved
02975	Mysuru	Jaipur	10.40	12.55	Thu & Sat	Fully reserved
02578	Mysuru	Darbhanga	10.40	13.20	Friday	Fully reserved
06201	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	11.30	14.00	Daily	Partially unreserved
06315	Mysuru	Kochuveli	12.50	16.35	Daily	Fully reserved
07307	Mysuru	Bagalkot	13.30	16.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06258	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	13.45	17.00	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06082	Mysuru	MGR Chennai	14.15	16.10	6 days a week except Wednesday	Shatabdi Express
02786	Mysuru	Kacheguda	15.15	17.55	Daily	Fully reserved
06535	Mysuru	Solapur	15.45	18.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06232	Mysuru	Mayiladuturai	16.30	18.45	Daily	Fully reserved
06219	Chamarajanagar	Tirupati	16.55	20.25	Daily	Fully reserved
06236	Mysuru	Tuticorin	18.20	21.05	Daily	Fully reserved
06210	Mysuru	Ajmer	18.35	21.30	Tue & Thu	Fully reserved
06582	Mysuru	Hubballi	19.00	21.55	Daily	Fully reserved
06227	Mysuru	Talguppa	19.30	22.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06022	Mysuru	Chennai	21.00	23.45	Daily	Fully reserved
01065	Mysuru	Renigunta	22.55	01.24	Friday	Fully reserved

STAR OF MYSORE Service to readers

DEPARTING FROM KSR BENGALURU AND ARRIVING MYSURU

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Bengaluru Departure	Mysuru Arrival	Days of Service	
01066	Renigunta	Mysuru	00.35	02.50	Sunday	Fully reserved
06209	Ajmer	Mysuru	03.30	06.00	Tue & Sun	Fully reserved
06238	Sainagar Shirdi	Mysuru	03.30	06.00	Wednesday	Fully reserved
06021	Chennai	Mysuru	03.55	06.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06228	Talguppa	Mysuru	04.30	07.45	Daily	Fully reserved
06231	Mayiladuturai	Mysuru	05.55	08.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06581	Hubballi	Mysuru	06.20	09.20	Daily	Fully reserved
02785	Kacheguda	Mysuru	06.45	09.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06235	Tuticorin	Mysuru	07.00	09.55	Daily	Fully reserved
06220	Tirupati	Chamarajanagar	05.00	08.05	Daily	Fully reserved
06536	Solapur	Mysuru	07.50	11.00	Daily	Fully reserved
06316	Kochuveli	Mysuru	08.45	11.20	Daily	Fully reserved
06257	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	09.20	12.45	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06081	MGR Chennai	Mysuru	10.50	13.00	6 days a week except Wednesday	Shatabdi Express
07308	Bagalkot	Mysuru	11.15	13.50	Daily	Fully reserved
02976	Jaipur	Mysuru	13.00	15.45	Wed & Fri	Fully reserved
06202	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	15.15	17.45	Daily	Partially unreserved
07325	Belagavi	Mysuru	17.45	20.40	Daily	Partially unreserved
06503	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	18.15	21.05	Daily	Fully reserved
02577	Darbhanga	Mysuru	18.40	21.40	Thursday	Fully reserved
06557	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	19.00	22.10	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06517	KSR Bengaluru	Mangaluru	20.30	23.05	Wed, Fri & Sun	Fully reserved
06230	Varanasi	Mysuru	23.30	02.15	Mon & Sat	Fully reserved

TOWARDS SHIVAMOGGA & HUBBALLI AND BACK VIA HASSAN, ARSIKERE, DAVANGERE & HAVERI

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Departure	Arrival	Days of Service	
06295	Mysuru	Talguppa	06.00	13.15	Daily	Fully Reserved
06296	Talguppa	Mysuru	15.00	22.15	Daily	Fully Reserved
06213	Arsikere	Mysuru	05.00	09.25	Daily	Unreserved
06214	Mysuru	Arsikere	18.20	22.25	Daily	Unreserved
01036	Mysuru	Dadar	06.15	05.30 (next day)	Sunday	Fully Reserved
01035	Dadar	Mysuru	21.30	21.40 (next day)	Thursday	Fully Reserved
06225	Mysuru	Talguppa	10.15	18.00	Daily	Unreserved
06226	Talguppa	Mysuru	08.45	16.50	Daily	Unreserved
07301	Mysuru	Dharwad	22.30	08.05	Daily	Fully Reserved
07302	Dharwad	Mysuru	20.50	07.05	Daily	Fully Reserved

TOWARDS CHAMARAJANAGAR AND BACK

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Departure	Arrival	Days of Service	
06220	Tirupati	Chamarajanagar	07.20 (Mys)	09.10	Daily	Fully Reserved
06223	Mysuru	Chamarajanagar	12.35	14.35	Daily	Unreserved
06219	Chamarajanagar	Tirupati	15.30	16.45 (Mys)	Daily	Fully Reserved
06234	Chamarajanagar	Mysuru	17.00	18.40	Daily	Unreserved

All rail-related information through mobile phones: Type <Rail> send to 139 or dial 139 on land lines; Security Helpline: 182

Passengers can buy unreserved tickets three days in advance for journeys beyond 200 kms at:

1) Booking Office, Mysore Railway Station
2) Tejaswi Enterprises, # 115, opposite Thaponandana Park, Panchamanthra Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysore570 023 (Ph: 2341111)
3) Ravitheja Enterprises #514 Bharath Mansion, New Kalidasa Road, Vijayanagar 1st stage, Mysore (08214256789).

For battery operated vehicle facility call Mob: 97316-18884

NOTE: *Computerised Advanced Reservation facility is also available at Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashram Post Office (Ph: 0821 2417311) and Siddarthanagar Post Office (Ph: 0821 2417335), Sharma Services, Keerthi Plaza, Chamundipuram, Mysore Ph: 08214289032. Railway timetable is published in Star of Mysore every Thursday.*

HOPCOMS ready to sell fruits, vegetables at citizens' doorsteps

Govt. nod awaited, says Deputy Director Rudresh

Rudresh

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (MK&SSV)- Horticultural Producers Co-operative Marketing and Processing Society Limited (HOPCOMS) is ready to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables at the doorsteps of people if it gets nod from the State Government in the wake of 14-day Corona Curfew till May 12.

Last year, during the same time, when the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic struck, the HOPCOMS rose to the occasion and sold fresh fruits and vegetables on streets following restriction on the movement of public owing to Janata Curfew. By doing this, it had won the accolades of the citizens, recalled K. Rudresh, Deputy Director, HOPCOMS.

He told *SOM* that the Horticulture Department was again ready to serve the Mysureans by supplying fruits and vegetables to citizens at the fixed rate following restriction on the movement of people due to clamping down of curfew from 10 am to 6 am to contain the spread of pandemic.

The four hour relaxation between 6 am and 10 am was not sufficient for the people to buy the essentials. The HOPCOMS was ready to take fruits and vegetables in vehicles across the city to enable people to buy it. It can be started only after the State Government gives permission, he added.

Helpline

He said a Helpline (+91 82124-20066) has been started to help the Horticultural Producers of district on marketing and other problems. Two Nodal Officers have been appointed to address every issues of every farmer at this hour of crisis, he said.

Government sets up Agri War Room Helplines for farmers

Bengaluru, Apr.29 (KMS&DM)- In a bid to help the farming community during COVID Curfew, the Agriculture Department has revived the Agri War Room, with the launch of two **Helplines - 080- 22210237 and 22212818.**

The Agri War Room will help the farmers by giving useful suggestions on carrying out agricultural activities, equipment availability, fertilizer and other inputs supplies and transportation of Agri produce to markets during the COVID Curfew and in other critical periods.

The War Room will function from 8 am till 8 pm on all days and will be handled by three officials.

The Government had set up the Agri War Room last year too, when COVID-19 broke out. Then this War Room had helped farmers in achieving a record 106 percent of sowing even during the critical period.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil said that this War Room will act as a communication bridge between the Department and the farming community during this critical period, when the entire country is engaged in battling the Coronavirus.

Dereliction in COVID duty: DC issues notices to 22 PDOs

Chamarajanagar, Apr. 29 (KS)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. M.R. Ravi, seeking explanation for dereliction in performing COVID duty and showing negligent attitude, has issued notices to 22 Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs).

Following increase in COVID-19 positive cases, an order was passed appointing PDOs to trace the primary and secondary contacts of COVID -19 positive patients in the stipulated time. But the Nodal Officer of the Contact Tracing team had submitted a report in which the PDOs had mentioned 'Nil Contact.'

Taking the matter seriously, DC Dr. Ravi, considering it to be negligent attitude and dereliction in duty has issued notices to Kodlur Gram Panchayat (GP) PDO B. Mahadevaiah, Chandakawadi PDO M. Siddaraju, Kempanapura PDO K.N. Ramegowda, Baagali PDO Shivakumar, Ummathur PDO D. Bhagyalakshmi, Kuderu PDO M.S. Chandru, Saagade PDO K.N. Somashekar, Doddinduwadi PDO K.G. Dayanand, Male Mahadeshwara Hill PDO K. Rajkumar, Rampura PDO V. Mahadevaswamy, Kannur PDO B. Nagaraju, Gumballi PDO Basavanna, Gowdalli PDO Shivakumar, Yaragamballi PDO B. Adishesha Murthy, Honnur PDO K.P. Sunitha, Agatagowdanahalli PDO S. Mahadevappa, Balachawadi PDO K. Somashekar, Baragi PDO H.R. Mohan Kumar, Berambadi PDO D. Sheela, Hangala PDO Kumaraswamy, Kelasur PDO R. Ravi and Kabballi PDO C.S. Usharani.

The DC has asked the above PDOs to provide explanation within 24 hours of receiving the notice failing which stringent action would be taken against them.

Be POSITIVE

A boon or a curse now ?

By N.K.A. Ballal,
Retd. Sr. Vice-President, ITDC

Ballal

A meaningful story, a *WhatsApp* forward: A gourmet chef once invited a dozen of his close friends to the restaurant. He had prepared a special *biriyani,* the secret recipe of which he claimed he had got from an old lady from his village. The aroma of this special dish spread all over the place. Everyone's mouth started watering. Now they were all eager to taste this special *biriyani.* Everyone was served the dish.

Just when everyone was about to take the first bite, the chef came and said, "I have to forewarn you. There is a small stone in the *biriyani.* Since it was of the same size and colour of the rice, I could not pick it in time. It might come in anyone's plate. So please be careful while eating. I do not want anyone to damage their teeth."

The flavour of the *biriyani* was great and so was the taste. But now the fun of eating had gone. Everyone was forcefully swallowing one bite after another without paying any attention to the taste or the aroma. There was no talk, no gossip. All were silently eating, only concentrating on their bite.

Before the meal, there was so much talk going around but now everyone were concentrating on checking who would get the elusive stone. The last bite was over and no stone was found.

Everyone was relieved but someone noticed that no one got the stone. Then they called the chef and asked him, "You said that one of us will get a stone, but no one got it. Why?" The chef said, "I had removed all the stones but there was a chance that one or two might have been missed. So I just informed you."

They all looked at each other as the fun of eating the great *biriyani* had gone. Each one was so concentrated on finding the stone, no one had noticed the delicate flavour and the superb taste of the signature *biriyani.*

Come to the present, due to this pandemic, our condition also has become like the 'stone' in the *biriyani.* The fun of living has vanished. Every helping hand who comes forward is looked down with suspicion — be it the milk-man, vegetable vendor, grocer or the maid. Every time we buy grocery or vegetable, at the back of the mind, we start thinking whether any virus has also come along with it.

Inviting a guest home is now a forgotten ritual. Earlier, if one sneezed we used to say "God Bless," now if anyone sneezes in our presence, we start thinking whether our time has come.

One of the prime reasons for this is the slew of NEGATIVE news going all around. Open a newspaper, it is Corona from page one to page ten. Switch on a TV, it is depressing news of Corona 27x7. So much so, even family members discuss only Corona all the time. Switch on the WiFi in the morning, Corona advices start coming in. From lime therapy, ginger therapy, etc., a sure shot cure for Corona. Literal bombardment of videos.

Because of this negativity, even the frontline workers and doctors hesitate to get vaccinated which is essential to get the herd immunity necessary in the long run to get over this pandemic.

I was talking to an Administrative Officer of a reputed Hospital and was astonished when she informed me that only 110 members of her Hospital, which has a staffing of seven hundred plus, had got themselves vaccinated!

Imagine, if this is the mindset of the frontline workers, what to expect from the general public? I have written about 300-plus articles for this newspaper but so much negative news floating around has affected my writing too. I sit in front of a computer, and my mind goes blank.

Take the example of Israel, with 81 percent of the people vaccinated they have reached the stage of herd immunity and have advised their population to avoid masks in public. Such a POSITIVE news gets tucked in some corner of a newspaper and a passing reference in the electronic media.

One look at the photographs of *Ugadi* festival hopping at our own Mysuru city, it seems that Corona is only a myth going around. Milling crowds not bothered about wearing any kind of mask or following social distancing norms. Suddenly when the infection count of Mysuru has shot up to four digits, everyone is worried. Are we going the Bengaluru way? Shortage of oxygen, ICU beds, etc.

I go for my evening walk and see that most of the people do not wear mask, an essential item for personal safety. The District Administration proudly claims that they have collected some crores as fine money and forget about it. A hundred or two hundred rupees fine is not going to pinch anyone's pocket and that is the reason no one really cares. The fine has to pinch and so a minimum of 500 rupees fine is essential to make a difference.

Like Singapore, the administration has to appoint 500 Marshals to go around the city and collect fines. And their salary can be paid from fines collected.

There is a small restaurant "Halli Hatti" in our colony and before the pandemic, I used to visit that restaurant once a week and enjoy a breakfast of made-to-order *dosa* with extra onions and chillies. With the pandemic now fully entrenched, I have not visited that restaurant for a year now. Missing these small joys of life. Miss the hot *samosas* and coffee of DRC Cinemas too.

What an irony, if now someone tells you BE POSITIVE, it is considered a curse. Of course, the only POSITIVE aspect of this pandemic is the awareness on the importance of "FAMILY."

To conclude, as I was writing this article, I remembered this Kishore Kumar classic *"Koi lauta de mere beete huye din..." [Can someone bring me back those days gone by].* Is it possible? Let us be optimistic.

ananthballal@gmail.com

Corona patients must not take Remdesivir injection without doctor's instruction

Bengaluru, Apr.29 (SSV)- Preparation was going on to give guidance to all COVID-19 patients through Apthamitra Helpline, said Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar.

Talking to reporters here yesterday, he said people who tested positive in RT-PCR would be informed by Apthamitra Helpline within 3-4 hours. The medical background experts and degree holders would also give guidance to positive patients. Besides collecting details of seriousness of the disease and health condition, they would decide if the patient required home quarantine, COVID Care Centre or hospitalisation. If some people were not available on phone, then the help of Police would be taken to locate such non-reachable persons, he said adding that Helpline staff will be available in every zone in Bengaluru and they would collect details.

Required huge staff

Dr. Sudhakar said they required around 6,000 to 8,000 persons to contact every Corona positive patient quickly and effectively through Helpline. To address this issue, help of private companies will be taken. Each patient must be counselled at least for 8-10 minutes. Such a system was being evolved here.

On Remdesivir injection, he said only eight companies manufacture this medicine in the country. The Government of India has allotted 1.22 lakh vials to Karnataka.

There were three lakh active patients in the State and it was learnt that some were taking Remdesivir injection at home without doctor's guidance. Even doctors must not prescribe it as the injection must be given to only those who required it the most, he said.

'Reduce fear among people about Corona'

District Minister Somashekar tells officials

Mysuru, Apr.29 (SSV)- People have arrived at such a conclusion that as soon as they test Corona positive they demand for oxygenated beds. Officers must convince them that all positive patients do not need it, said Co-operation and District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar.

Reviewing COVID-19 situation in Hunsur taluk yesterday, he said in order to reduce fear among people, the officials must share information about the total number of patients discharged from the Hospitals and also facilities available to ensure recovery of patients.

Reason for more deaths

The Minister pointed out that one of the main reasons for the sudden increase of death cases in Mysuru was due to bringing patients in critical condition from Bengaluru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu and other districts. Naturally this has created fear in the minds of people. The job of officers including Tahsildars was to reduce fear among citizens through local MLAs and media, he said.

After K.R. Nagar, the maximum number of vaccination has been done in Hunsur taluk, he said. The State Government has already announced free vaccination for persons above 18 years of age free of cost. Since it will be given in both Govt. and Private Hospitals, people need not rush to vaccination booths.

Mysuru district has been released Rs. 4 crore and medical staff could be appointed for Hunsur Hospital, Somashekar said adding that as many as 998 Remdesivir injection for Private Hospitals will be arriving soon. On the other hand, there is sufficient stock of it in the Government Hospitals, he said.

Soon, 100 ventilators and 20 oxygen cylinders will be arriving in Mysuru, he said and added that a meeting was held with Private Hospitals Management seeking reservation of beds for COVID patients.

MP Pratap Simha, Hunsur MLA H.P. Manjunath, MLC A.H. Vishwanath, ZP CEO A.M.Yogesh and others were present.

WORD OF THE DAY

Clandestine

Pronunciation: klan-DESS-tun.
Meaning: Marked by, held in, or conducted with secrecy : surreptitious.
Origin: In 1658, the English poet John Milton wrote of "clandestine Hostility cover'd over with the name of Peace." Today, clandestine is used in much the same way. The word often substitutes for secret and covert, and it is commonly applied to actions that involve secrecy maintained for an evil, illicit, or unauthorised purpose. It comes to English by way of Middle French, from Latin clandestinus, which is itself from Latin clam, meaning "secretly."
Example: "Salons have been shut down under stay-at-home orders to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. In Los Angeles, the result has been a robust clandestine haircut scene." — Emily Guerin, NPR, 23 May 2020

THE ODD WORD

Caballine

Of, like or pertaining to or suited to a horse.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Check, please

Meaning: Being in an uncomfortable or awkward situation that you want to leave.
Origin: The origin of this phrase is not clear, but it seems likely that 'check, please' originated from restaurants or eateries. You will often hear this phrase used at such places because it is a way people ask for their bill. Someone who says it is basically saying they are done with their food and they want to pay and leave. So how old is this phrase? It goes back to at least the early 20th century. For example, there's a part in *The Australian Town and Country Journal* newspaper, May 1905, that reads: "'Will you give me my check, please?' The sound of her voice, breaking upon his ear, aroused Charteris from his reverie. He looked up quickly, and saw that she was speaking to the waitress. It was a common-place enough remark, but the weariness of her tone did not escape him." Okay, but what about the phrase's idiomatic meaning of 'wanting to leave an awkward situation'? Yes, when did it start to be used as an idiom? Well, it's tough to say because every occurrence I found of it had it being used in an 'asking for a bill' sense. If I ever do find a quote of it being used as an idiom, I'll update this page.

QUOTE BOX

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

LADDERS

Answer: Snakes and ladders.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

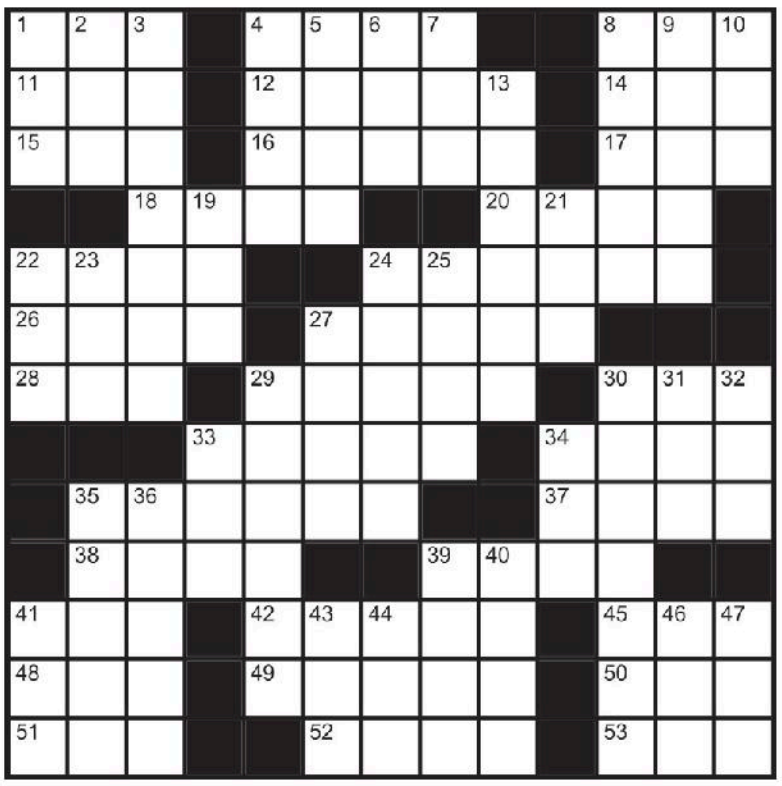
1 Strange
4 At this place
8 Baby blossom
11 Angle-of-attack
12 City in Japan
14 One as a prefix
15 Required Navigation Performance
16 Useful quality
17 Latin trio
18 Funerary bonfire
20 Bring to a stop
22 Inactive
24 Abundance
26 Feels remorse for
27 A close friend or a bosom pal
28 A thin bar of metal
29 Naming words
30 Chinese dynasty
33 Pasta variety
34 Betting machine
35 Stilton for one, Cheddar for another?
37 Follow orders
38 It is exactly 36 inches
39 Vast age
41 Flight Control Sys.
42 Leaves
45 Uber competitor
48 Ultimo, in short
49 Evil spirit
50 Idiot __-: Television set
51 Adjective meaning born, followed by maiden name
52 "Made" changes to get a lady?
53 The sun

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

T	I	C			A	T	E		L	A	B	S
A	S	H			Y	U	L		E	Z	R	A
S	T	A	G	N	A	T	E		O	M	I	T
		P	A	T	H	O	G	E	N	I	C	
S	Y	L	P	H		R	A	T	I			
A	A	A					N	A	N	N	Y	
S	P	I	N	E	T		T	H	E	I	S	T
	S	N	O	R	E				T	E	A	
		T	I	N	A		M	A	R	R	Y	
	P	E	C	C	A	D	I	L	L	O		
S	I	N	H		B	E	S	I	E	G	E	D
O	N	D	E		L	E	M			E	R	A
T	E	S	S		E	M	S			N	I	L

DOWN

1 Paddle
2 Mafia godfather's title?
3 Mottled
4 Frosty white
5 Being in Latin
6 An Ethiopian prince
7 Supplement
8 Constructed
9 Wholeness
10 502, in Rome
13 Capital of Greece
19 Affirmative
21 One, no matter which
22 Like some vbs.
23 Pair
24 Dried plum
25 Having no company
27 Disadvantages?
29 Craved for
30 Associates or spends time with - being on very friendly terms
31 ___ away : corroded?
32 "Yen" anagram for famous French marshal
33 Through, by means of
34 Additionally
35 Series of poems, etc
36 Celerity, swiftness
39 Tiny particle
40 "Seen" anagram for a slave?
41 Enjoyment
43 Marked wrong
44 Ind. Med. Assoc.
46 The forfeit or sum paid into the pool
47 Rock musician __ Rose



SUDOKO

					9			5
3						4		
4	1		8				7	
		5		9	8		6	
		1				3		
	6		5	7		2		
	7				2		8	6
		6						1
1			7					

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	6	5	3	7	4	1	8
5	3	7	8	4	1	6	9	2
8	1	4	2	6	9	7	3	5
1	9	8	4	2	5	3	7	6
2	6	5	7	1	3	8	4	9
4	7	3	9	8	6	2	5	1
7	8	1	3	9	2	5	6	4
6	5	2	1	7	4	9	8	3
3	4	9	6	5	8	1	2	7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CQQTKSZ UPIG MPFU JQVARJU KO VS QBTGQOOKPS

PX ZGVRKRIFQ RP RJQ LJPAQ EPOHPO - RJQ

RGQQO, RJQ EAPIFO, QYQGURJKSZ.

TODAY'S CLUE: Z EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A technical objection is the first refuge of a scoundrel.

Tusker Kusha to be set free into the woods

Forest Minister Aravind Limbavali orders his release following Maneka Gandhi's intervention

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (BCT)- Wild tusker Kusha, who has been re-tamed after his escapade into the woods in search of a mate from Dubare elephant camp in Kodagu, will finally be freed. His release from the elephant camp was ordered by Forest Minister Aravind Limbavali yesterday following the intervention of animal rights activist and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi.

The sitting MP had spoken to Limbavali and apprised the Minister that Kusha has been chained and had urged him to release the elephant back into the wild. She had also informed People for Animals (PFA) Mysuru to look into the issue of the alleged ill-treatment meted out to Kusha which the Department had dismissed. The PFA Veterinarian had stated in his report that Kusha bore no injuries on its body but is chained during nights.

The Forest Minister held a meeting with senior officers from the Forest Department including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sanjay Mohan, who is also the Head of Forest Force, Vijaykumar Gogi, PCCF (Wildlife) and wildlife curators.

Kusha, the 27-year-old male elephant that went missing from Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu district one-and-a-half years ago was put in Kraal at Dubare recently to re-tame him and this had raised ethical questions as to why Kusha, who was with its companion, was forcibly recaptured. Following an uproar, the animal rights activists and PFA had launched a campaign that had drawn Maneka Gandhi's attention.

Even as the Forest Department had justified its recapture on the grounds that five years back Kusha was originally brought to the camp after capture from the wild and tamed to control human-elephant conflict and he might attack humans, wildlife activists had suggested that Kusha be released after being radio-collared.

Seven elephants to be taken over

Following the campaign and Maneka's intervention, the Forest Minister ordered Kusha's release after radio-collaring. Before that, the Department must find a suitable place to release Kusha. He also directed the forest officials to take over seven elephants including five calves which are under the care of Prajna Chowta, who runs 'Aane Mane Foundation' which takes care of semi-trained elephants.

The Minister told officials that he had received multiple complaints from local residents against Chowta for running an elephant camp at Dubare, that is an elephant corridor. The Foundation manages semi-captive elephants in their natural habitat.

Chowta has carved a niche for herself being the first woman mahout in the country. She is the daughter of Darbe Krishnananda Chowta, a Tulu writer, businessman and artist and sister of Bollywood Music Director Sandeep Chowta. Her husband is French filmmaker Philippe Gautier. She has been running 'Aane Mane Foundation' since 2002.

CSK thrash SRH by 7 wickets

New Delhi, Apr. 29 (UNI)- Riding on fantastic fifties from Faf du Plessis and Rututaj Gaikwad, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) thrashed Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 7 wickets in the 23rd match of the IPL 2021 at Arun Jaitely Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Sunrisers Hyderabad posted 171 for 3 in 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Captain David Warner (57 off 55 balls) and Pandey (61 off 46 balls) were the top-scorers while Kane Williamson (26* off 10 balls) and Kedar Jadhav (12 off 4 balls) also played important cameos for SRH.

Lungi Ngidi was the best bowler for CSK, returning with figures of 2 for 35 while Sam Curran (1/30) got the other wicket.

In reply, CSK openers Du Plessis (56) and Gaikwad (75) shared a 129-run opening partnership and ensured that their team gunned down the target in 18.3 overs with 7 wickets in hands.

Rashid Khan (3/36) was the most successful bowler for SRH.

The win was CSK's fifth on trot which propelled them to the top of the IPL 2021 points table.

BRIEF SCORES

Sunrisers Hyderabad: 171 for 3 in 20 overs. (D. Warner 57, M. Pandey 61; L. Ngidi 2/35).

Chennai Super Kings: 173 for 3 in 18.3 overs. (R. Gaikwad 75, Faf du Plessis 56; R. Khan 3/36).

Russell's Viper rescued from 25-feet well in city

Mysuru, Apr. 29 (KS) City snake rescuers Mohammed Umar Shariff (Snake Umar) and Cobra Kumar, with the help of Police officer Mohan Kumar have rescued a Russell's Viper from a 25-feet well at Jockey Quarters recently.

Umar said that Mohan Kumar, also a snake rescuer, while rescuing a snake at Jockey Quarters learnt about a Russell's Viper in the open well nearby from the residents, called Umar over the phone and informed him about the same.

Umar, who was rescuing a snake at Bannimantap, rushed to Jockey Quarters and on inspecting the open dry well saw a Russell's Viper, a venomous snake. The people there told him that the snake was inside the well since about a month and someone had placed a wooden log inside with its end projecting outside the well for the snake to climb up.

The next day morning, Umar along with Mohan Kumar and Cobra Kumar, took all the necessary rescue equipment and climbed down the well and saw the Viper snake which was thin and dehydrated. He then picked up the snake, placed it inside a rescue bag and climbed out of the well. After providing water, they (Umar, Mohan and Cobra Kumar) released it in its natural habitat.

ABOUT RUSSELL'S VIPER

Russell's Viper is a venomous snake found in Asia which are responsible for thousands of deaths in and across India each year.

Russell's Vipers are solitary terrestrial creatures. However, during cool weather, they become more active during the day and they like to bask in the sun during the day. They are found in caves, cracks in the soil or under leaves, rocks etc.

Adults move slowly and become aggressive when threatened. Juveniles are more nervous in nature. When threatened, Russell's Vipers form a series of S-loops, raise the first third of the body and produce a hiss that is louder than any other snake. When striking from this position, they can exert so much force that even a large individual can lift most of its body off the ground in the process.

These snakes are strong and will react violently to being picked up. The bite may be a snap or they may hang on for many seconds. Russell's Vipers are carnivores and feed primarily on rodents and also small reptiles. Many confuse it to be a Python and try to catch it, but end up getting bitten from this deadly venomous snake.

The bite of Russell's Viper can be fatal. Large snakes can deliver a lethal dose in humans. Victims usually complain of pain and swelling may be evident. Substantial coagulopathy and acute renal failure may ensue, which may result in death. Immediate medication could prevent death.

IPL 2021

TODAY'S MATCHES (APRIL 29)

MI Vs RR — 3.30 pm

DC Vs KRR — 7.30 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCH (APRIL 30)

PBKS Vs RCB — 7.30 pm

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

CSK - 173 / 3 (18.3)
beat
SRH - 171 / 3 (20)

Live Telecast on

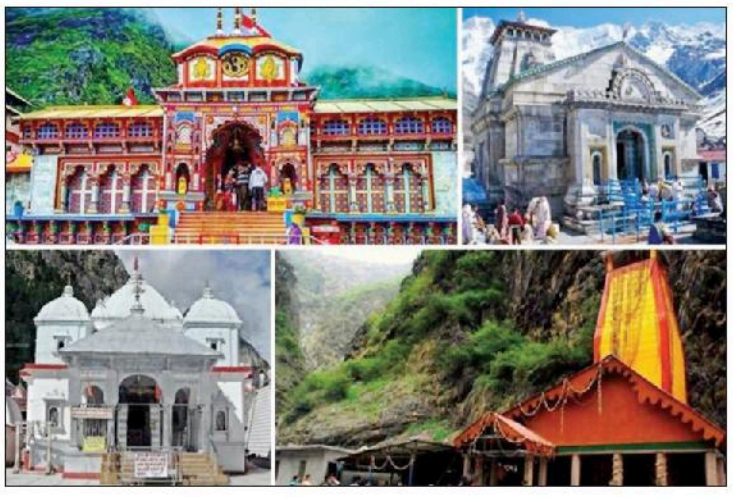
STAR SPORTS & Disney+ hotstar

[Source: www.iplt20.com]

A quiet flyover...

Has time stopped in the city? Suddenly the bumper-to-bumper, surging and at times disorderly traffic on the busy Hunsur Road seems to have evaporated, thanks to the two-week COVID Curfew. Without traffic, this particular flyover that is choked by unending streams of vehicles from early morning till late night is somewhat unimaginable. This is how Mysuru's one and only Flyover built at Hinkal Ring Road Junction on Mysuru-Madikeri Highway looks like now after residents are asked to quarantine at home — no density, no activity, and no noise. *[Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]*

Uttarakhand suspends 'Char Dham Yatra'



Dehradun, Apr. 29 - Amid massive surge in COVID-19 cases, the Uttarakhand Government, today, suspended the 'Char Dham Yatra' for this year. The yatra was scheduled to start from May 14.

Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat said that only priests of the four temples will perform rituals and puja. The four pilgrimage sites are Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri.

"Uttarakhand Government has suspended Char Dham Yatra this year in view of COVID-19 situation in the State. Only priests will perform rituals and puja," said CM Rawat.

The Chief Minister said that the decision has been taken in view of the rising cases of Coronavirus infections.

The *Char Dham* (meaning: four abodes) is a set of four pilgrimage sites in India. It is believed that visiting these sites helps achieve moksha (salvation). The Badrinath shrine is slated to open on May 18, Kedarnath on May 17, Gangotri and Yamunotri will open on May 15.

Last year, too, the Government had suspended the yatra in the initial months. Local residents and those from within the State were allowed to go to the shrines. The yatra was subsequently started in July.

VAIKUNTHA SAMARAADHANE

If there is another place, a good one, this great lady will watch us now, and will want us to be happy with full of love. We Miss you a lot.

From: Beloved Husband (Anandgokul B.S), Daughters, Sons-in-law, and Grandchildren

Vaikuntha Samaraadhane will be held on 30th April at our residence.

Please bless her soul virtually

Ph: 9986661145 / 9900212517

SHANTHA.A

DOB: 24.11.1955 - DOD: 15.04.2021

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